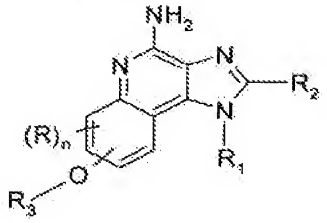
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-3 (canceled)

4. (original) A compound of the formula (II):



II

wherein:

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of

-Z-Y-R_4,

-Z-Y-X-Y-R_4,

-Z-R_5,

-Z-Het,

-Z-Het'-R_4, and

-Z-Het'-Y-R_4;

Z is selected from the group consisting of alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene, wherein alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene can be optionally interrupted with one or more -O- groups;

R is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, and trifluoromethyl;

n is 0 or 1;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of

-R_4,

-X-R_4,

-X-Y-R_4,

-X-Y-X-Y-R_4, and

-X-R_5;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of

-R_4,

-X-R_4,

-X-Y-R_4, and

-X-R_5;

X is selected from the group consisting of alkylene, alkenylene, alkynylene, arylene, heteroarylene, and heterocyclylene wherein the alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene groups can be optionally interrupted or terminated with arylene, heteroarylene, or heterocyclylene, and optionally interrupted by one or more -O- groups;

Y is selected from the group consisting of

-$S(O)_{0-2}$-,

-$S(O)_2$-$N(R_8)$-,

-$C(R_6)$-,

-$C(R_6)$-O-,

-O-$C(R_6)$-,

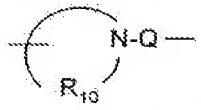
-O-C(O)-O-,

-$N(R_8)$-Q-,

-$C(R_6)$-$N(R_8)$-,

-O-$C(R_6)$-$N(R_8)$-,

-$C(R_6)$-$N(OR_9)$-,



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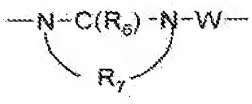

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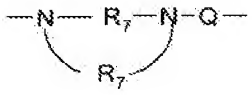

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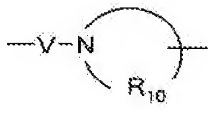

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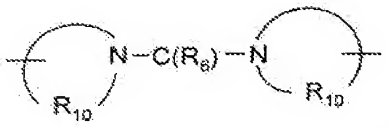
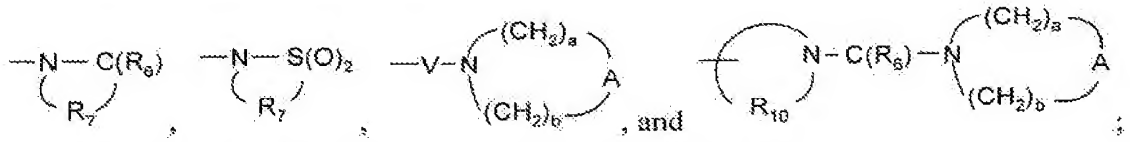


;

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, alkylarylenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkylenyl, heteroaryloxyalkylenyl, alkylheteroarylenyl, and heterocyclyl wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, alkylarylenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkylenyl, heteroaryloxyalkylenyl, alkylheteroarylenyl, and heterocyclyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxy, mercapto, cyano, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyleneoxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylalkyleneoxy, heterocyclyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, (dialkylamino)alkyleneoxy, and in the case of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, and heterocyclyl, oxo;

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of



;

R_6 is selected from the group consisting of =O and =S;

R_7 is C_{2-7} alkylene;

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxyalkylenyl, and arylalkylenyl;

R_9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R_{10} is C_{3-8} alkylene;

A is selected from the group consisting of -O-, -C(O)-, -$S(O)_{0-2}$-, and -$N(R_4)$-;

Het is heterocyclyl which can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, cyano, aryloxy, arylalkyleneoxy, heteroaryloxy,

heteroarylalkyleneoxy, heterocyclyl, hydroxyalkyleneoxyalkylenyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, (dialkylamino)alkyleneoxy, and oxo;

Het' is heterocyclylene which can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, cyano, aryloxy, arylalkyleneoxy, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylalkyleneoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, (dialkylamino)alkyleneoxy, and oxo;

Q is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -$C(R_6)$-, -$C(R_6)$-$C(R_6)$-, -$S(O)_2$-, -$C(R_6)$-$N(R_8)$-W-, -$S(O)_2$-$N(R_8)$-, -$C(R_6)$-O-, and -$C(R_6)$-$N(OR_9)$-;

V is selected from the group consisting of -$C(R_6)$-, -O-$C(R_6)$-, -$N(R_8)$-$C(R_6)$-, and -$S(O)_2$-;

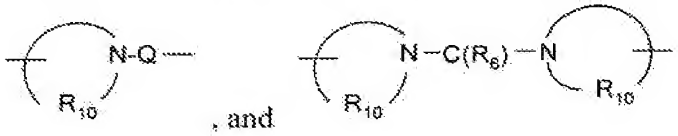
W is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -C(O)-, and -$S(O)_2$-; and

a and b are independently integers from 1 to 6 with the proviso that a + b is ≤ 7;

with the proviso that Z can also be a bond when:

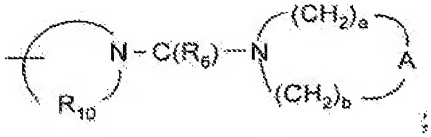
R_3 is -Z-Het, -Z-Het'-R_4, or -Z-Het'-Y-R_4; or

R_3 is –Z-Y-R_4 or –Z-Y-X-Y-R_4, and Y is selected from -$S(O)_{0-2}$-, -$S(O)_2$-$N(R_8)$-, -$C(R_6)$-, -$C(R_6)$-O-, -$C(R_6)$-$N(R_8)$-,



; or

R_3 is –Z-R_5 and R_5 is



;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (currently amended) The compound or salt ~~of any one~~ of claims ~~1 through~~ 4 wherein R_3 is -Z-Y-R_4 or -Z-Y-X-Y-R_4.

6. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1 through~~ 5 wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of

$-S(O)_{0-2}-$

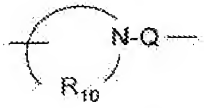
-C(O)-,

-C(O)-O-,

-O-C(O)-,

$-N(R_8)-Q-$,

$-C(R_6)-N(R_8)-$,



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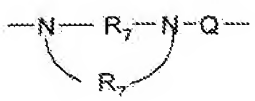

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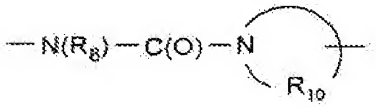

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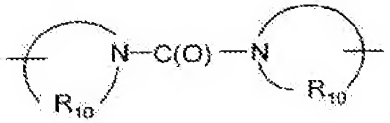


;

wherein Q is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -C(O)-, -C(O)-O-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-C(R_6)-N(R_8)-W-$, and $-S(O)_2-N(R_8)-$; W is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -C(O)-, and $-S(O)_2-$; R_6 is selected from the group consisting of =O or =S; R_8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, and alkoxyalkylenyl; and R_{10} is selected from the group consisting of C_{4-6} alkylene;

X is selected from the group consisting of alkylene, arylene, heterocyclylene, heteroarylene, and alkylene terminated with heteroarylene; and

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen,

alkyl,

alkenyl,

aryl,

arylalkylenyl,

alkylheteroarylenyl,

heteroarylalkylenyl,

aryloxyalkylenyl,

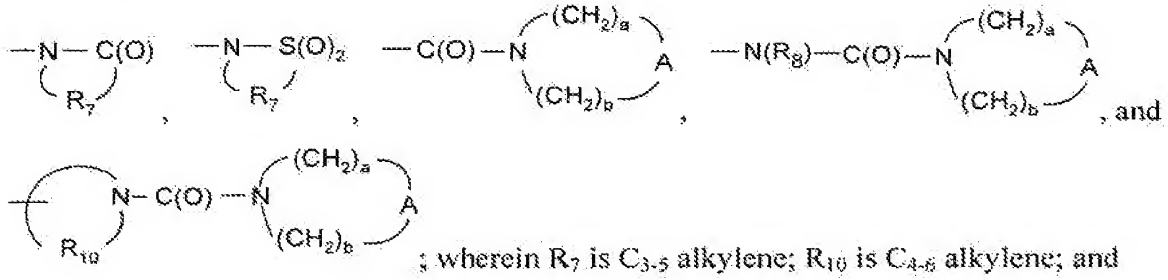
heteroaryl, and

heterocyclyl,

wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkoxy, and heterocyclyl, and wherein arylalkylenyl and heteroarylalkylenyl are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, halogen, and alkoxy.

7. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~any one of claims 1 through~~ 4 wherein R_3 is -Z-R_5.

8. (original) The compound or salt of claim 7 wherein R_5 is selected from the group consisting of



; wherein R_7 is C_{3-5} alkylene; R_{10} is C_{4-6} alkylene; and a and b are each independently 1 to 3.

9. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~any one of claims 1 through~~ 4 wherein R_3 is -Z-Het, -Z-Het'-R_4, or -Z-Het'-Y-R_4.

10. (original) The compound or salt of claim 9 wherein Z is a bond.

11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The compound or salt of claim ~~4~~11 wherein $R_{3a}R_3$ is -Z-N(R_8)-C(R_6)-R_4.

13. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~claim 11 or~~ claim 12 wherein R_8 is hydrogen, R_6 is =O, and R_4 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, and heteroaryl, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, and heteroaryl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, halogen, alkoxy, cyano, arylalkyleneoxy, nitro, dialkylamino, aryloxy, heterocyclyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, and in the case of alkyl, oxo.

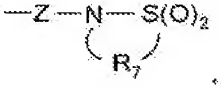
14-22 (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The compound or salt of claim ~~4~~22 wherein ~~R_{4-2}~~R_3 is -Z-N(R_8)-S(O)$_2$-R_4.

24. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~claim 22 or~~ claim 23 wherein R_8 is hydrogen, and R_4 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, and heteroaryl, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, and heteroaryl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, halogen, alkoxy, cyano, arylalkyleneoxy, nitro, dialkylamino, aryloxy, heterocyclyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluormethoxy, and in the case of alkyl, oxo.

25. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~any one of claims 22 through~~ 24 wherein Z is ethylene or propylene, R_8 is hydrogen, and R_4 is C_{1-3} alkyl.

26. (currently amended) The compound or salt of claim ~~4~~22 wherein ~~R_{4-2}~~R_3 is

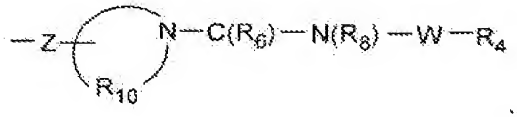


.

27. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~claim 22 or~~ claim 26 wherein R_7 is C_{3-5} alkylene.

28-45 (canceled)

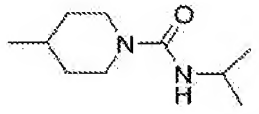
46. (currently amended) The compound or salt of claim ~~43~~ 45 wherein ~~R_{3-3}~~R_3 is



47. (original) The compound or salt of claim 46 wherein Z is a bond.

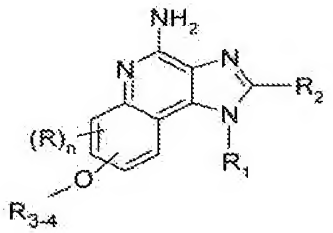
48. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~claim 35,~~ claim ~~46, or claim 47~~ wherein R_6 is =O or =S, R_9 is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl, R_{10} is C_{4-6} alkylene, W is a bond, -C(O)-, or -$S(O)_2$-, and R_4 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, and heteroaryl, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, and heteroaryl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, halogen, alkoxy, cyano, arylalkyleneoxy, nitro, dialkylamino, aryloxy, heterocyclyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluormethoxy, and in the case of alkyl, oxo.

49. (currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 48 wherein ~~R_{3-3}~~R_3 is



50-54 (canceled)

55. (original) A compound of the formula (VI):



VI

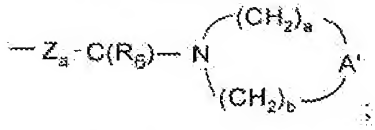
wherein:

R_{3-4} is selected from the group consisting of

$-Z_a-C(R_6)-R_4$,

$-Z_a-C(R_6)-O-R_4$,

$-Z_a-C(R_6)-N(R_8)-R_4$, and



;

Z_a is selected from the group consisting of a bond, alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene, wherein alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene can be optionally interrupted with one or more -O- groups;

R is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, and trifluoromethyl;

n is 0 or 1;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of

$-R_4$,

$-X-R_4$,

$-X-Y-R_4$,

$-X-Y-X-Y-R_4$, and

$-X-R_5$;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of

$-R_4$,

$-X-R_4$,

$-X-Y-R_4$, and

$-X-R_5$;

X is selected from the group consisting of alkylene, alkenylene, alkynylene, arylene, heteroarylene, and heterocyclylene wherein the alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene groups can be optionally interrupted or terminated with arylene, heteroarylene, or heterocyclylene, and optionally interrupted by one or more -O- groups;

Y is selected from the group consisting of

$-S(O)_{0-2}-$,

$-S(O)_2-N(R_8)-$,

$-C(R_6)-$,

$-C(R_6)-O-$,

$-O-C(R_6)-$,

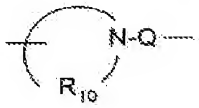
$-O-C(O)-O-$,

$-N(R_8)-Q-$,

$-C(R_6)-N(R_8)-$,

$-O-C(R_6)-N(R_8)-$,

$-C(R_6)-N(OR_9)-$,



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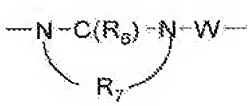

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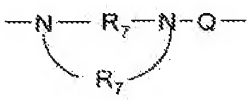

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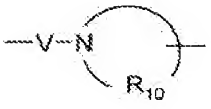

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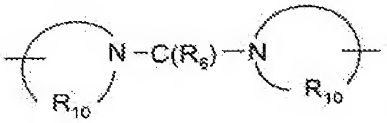
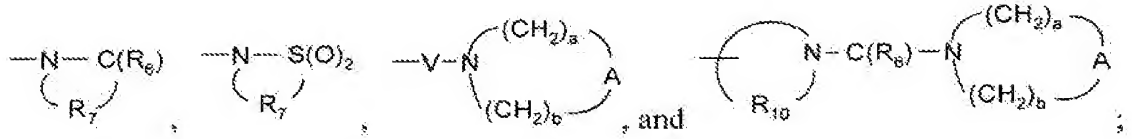


;

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, alkylarylenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkylenyl, heteroaryloxyalkylenyl, alkylheteroarylenyl, and heterocyclyl wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl,

aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, alkylarylenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkylenyl, heteroaryloxyalkylenyl, alkylheteroarylenyl, and heterocyclyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxy, mercapto, cyano, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyleneoxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylalkyleneoxy, heterocyclyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, (dialkylamino)alkyleneoxy, and in the case of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, and heterocyclyl, oxo;

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of



;

R_6 is selected from the group consisting of =O and =S;

R_7 is C_{2-7} alkylene;

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxyalkylenyl, and arylalkylenyl;

R_9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R_{10} is C_{3-8} alkylene;

A is selected from the group consisting of -O-, -C(O)-, $-S(O)_{0-2}$-, and $-N(R_4)$-;

A' is selected from the group consisting of -O-, -C(O)-, $-S(O)_{0-2}$-, $-N(R_4)$-, and $-CH_2$-;

Q is selected from the group consisting of a bond, $-C(R_6)$-, $-C(R_6)-C(R_6)$-, $-S(O)_2$-, $-C(R_6)-N(R_8)-W$-, $-S(O)_2-N(R_8)$-, $-C(R_6)-O$-, and $-C(R_6)-N(OR_9)$-;

V is selected from the group consisting of $-C(R_6)$-, $-O-C(R_6)$-, $-N(R_8)-C(R_6)$-, and $-S(O)_2$-;

W is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -C(O)-, and $-S(O)_2$-; and

a and b are independently integers from 1 to 6 with the proviso that a + b is ≤ 7;

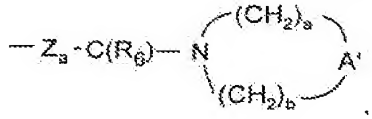
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

56. (original) The compound or salt of claim 55 wherein R_{3-4} is $-Z_a-C(R_6)-R_4$.

57. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~claim 55 or~~ claim 56 wherein R_6 is =O or =S, and R_4 is alkyl, aryl, or heterocyclyl.

58-61 (canceled)

62. (original) The compound or salt of claim 55 wherein R_{3-4} is



63. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~claim 55 or~~ claim 62 wherein R_6 is =O or =S, a and b are each independently 1 to 3, and A' is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-S(O)_2-$, and -O-.

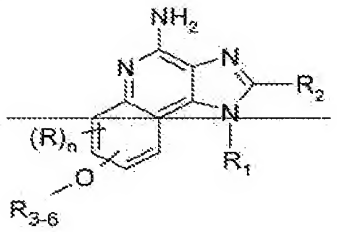
64. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~claim 55, claim 62, or~~ claim 63 wherein Z_a is methylene, R_6 is =O, a is 1 or 2, b is 2, and A' is $-CH_2-$.

65. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~claim 55, claim 62, or~~ claim 63 wherein Z_a is methylene, R_6 is =O, a and b are each 2, and A' is -O-.

66. (original) The compound or salt of claim 55 wherein Z_a is a bond or alkylene.

67-74 (canceled)

75. (currently amended) ~~The~~A compound or salt of claim 4 ~~of the formula (VIII):~~

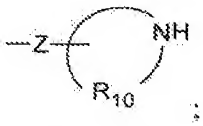


~~VIII~~

wherein:

R_{3-6} R_3 is selected from the group consisting of

-Z-N(R_8)H_2 and



;

~~Z is selected from the group consisting of alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene, wherein alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene can be optionally interrupted with one or more -O- groups;~~

~~R is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, and trifluoromethyl;~~

~~n is 0 or 1;~~

~~R_1 is selected from the group consisting of~~

~~R_4;~~

~~X-R_4;~~

~~X-Y-R_4;~~

~~X-Y-X-Y-R_4; and~~

~~X-R_5;~~

~~R_2 is selected from the group consisting of~~

~~R_4;~~

~~X-R_4;~~

~~X-Y-R_4; and~~

~~X-R_5;~~

~~X is selected from the group consisting of alkylene, alkenylene, alkynylene, arylene, heteroarylene, and heterocyclylene wherein the alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene groups can be optionally interrupted or terminated with arylene, heteroarylene, or heterocyclylene, and optionally interrupted by one or more -O- groups;~~

~~Y is selected from the group consisting of~~

~~$S(O)_{0-2}$-~~

~~$S(O)_2$-$N(R_8)$-~~

~~$C(R_6)$-~~

~~$C(R_6)$-O-~~

~~O-C(R$_6$)-;~~

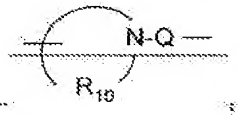
~~O-C(O)-O-;~~

~~N(R$_8$)-Q-;~~

~~C(R$_6$)-N(R$_8$)-;~~

~~O-C(R$_6$)-N(R$_8$)-;~~

~~C(R$_6$)-N(OR$_9$)-;~~



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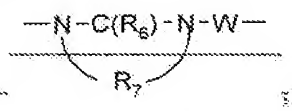
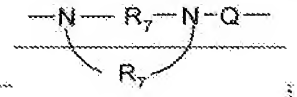
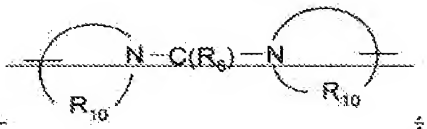


~~;~~



~~;~~

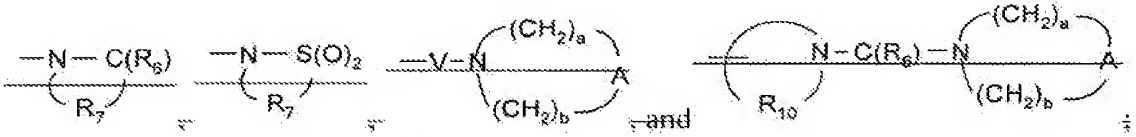
~~, and~~



~~;~~

~~R$_4$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, alkylarylenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkylenyl, heteroaryloxyalkylenyl, alkylheteroarylenyl, and heterocyclyl wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, alkylarylenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkylenyl, heteroaryloxyalkylenyl, alkylheteroarylenyl, and heterocyclyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxy, mercapto, cyano, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyleneoxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylalkyleneoxy, heterocyclyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, (dialkylamino)alkyleneoxy, and in the case of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, and heterocyclyl, oxo;~~

~~R$_5$ is selected from the group consisting of~~



~~R_6 is selected from the group consisting of =O and =S;~~

~~R_7 is C_{2-7} alkylene;~~

~~R_8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxyalkylenyl, and arylalkylenyl;~~

~~R_9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;~~

~~R_{10} is C_{1-8} alkylene;~~

~~A is selected from the group consisting of -O-, -C(O)-, -S(O)$_{0-2}$-, and -N(R_4)-;~~

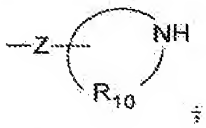
~~Q is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -C(R_6)=, -C(R_6)-C(R_6)=, -S(O)$_2$-, -C(R_6)-N(R_8)-W-, -S(O)$_2$-N(R_8)-, -C(R_6)-O-, and -C(R_6)-N(OR_9)-;~~

~~V is selected from the group consisting of -C(R_6)=, -O-C(R_6)=, -N(R_8)-C(R_6)=, and -S(O)$_2$-;~~

~~W is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -C(O)-, and -S(O)$_2$-; and~~

~~a and b are independently integers from 1 to 6 with the proviso that a + b is ≤ 7;~~

with the proviso that Z can also be a bond when ~~R_{3-6}~~ $\underline{R_3}$ is



~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~

76-77 (canceled)

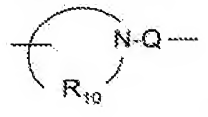
78. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~any one of claims 41 through 77~~ wherein n is 0.

79. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~any one of claims 1 through 4, 9, and 10~~ wherein Het or Het' is selected from the group consisting of tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, 1,3-dioxolanyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, thiazolidinyl, aziridinyl,

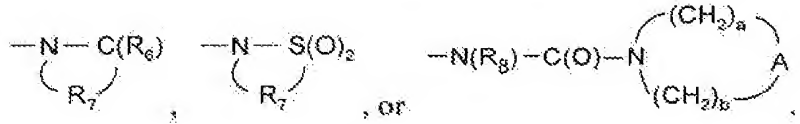
azepanyl, diazepanyl, dihydroisoquinolin-(1H)-yl, octahydroisoquinolin-(1H)-yl, dihydroquinolin-(2H)-yl, octahydroquinolin-(2H)-yl, dihydro-1H-imidazolyl, and piperazinyl.

80 (canceled)

81. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~any one of~~ claims 4 ~~through 80~~ wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, hydroxyalkyl, dihydroxyalkyl, alkylsulfonylalkylenyl, -X-Y-R_4, -X-R_5, and heterocyclylalkylenyl, wherein the heterocyclyl of the heterocyclylalkylenyl group is optionally substituted by one or more alkyl groups; wherein X is alkylene; Y is
-N(R_8)-C(O)-, -N(R_8)-S(O)$_2$-, -N(R_8)-C(O)-N(R_8)-, or



; R_4 is alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl; and R_5 is



82. (original) The compound or salt of claim 81 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxy-2-methylpropyl, 2-methylpropyl, propyl, ethyl, methyl, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl, 2-phenoxyethyl, 4-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]butyl, 2-methyl-2-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]propyl, 2-(acetylamino)-2-methylpropyl, 2-{[(isopropylamino)carbonyl]amino}-2-methylpropyl, 4-{[(isopropylamino)carbonyl]amino}butyl, 4-(1,1-dioxidoisothiazolidin-2-yl)butyl, tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-ylmethyl, and (2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)methyl.

83. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~any one of~~ claims 4 ~~through 82~~ wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxyalkylenyl, and hydroxyalkylenyl.

84. (original) The compound or salt of claim 83 wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, ethoxymethyl, methoxymethyl, 2-methoxyethyl, hydroxymethyl, and 2-hydroxyethyl.

85. (currently amended) The compound or salt of ~~any one of claims~~ 41 ~~through 9, 11 through 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22 through 24, 26 through 28, 30, 32, 34 through 37, 39, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 through 52, 54, 67 through 70, 72, and 73 through 84~~ wherein Z is alkylene.

86. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of ~~any one of claims~~ 41 ~~through 85~~ in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

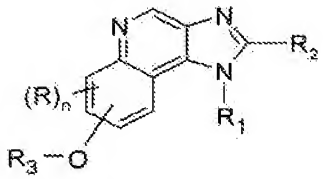
87. (currently amended) A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 476 to the animal.

88 (canceled)

89. (currently amended) A method of treating a viral disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 476 to the animal.

90. (currently amended) A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 476 to the animal.

91. (original) A compound of the formula (IX):



IX

wherein:

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of

-Z-Y-R_4,

-Z-Y-X-Y-R_4,

-Z-R_5,

-Z-Het,

-Z-Het'-R_4, and

-Z-Het'-Y-R_4;

Z is selected from the group consisting of alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene, wherein alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene can be optionally interrupted with one or more-O- groups;

R is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, and trifluoromethyl;

n is 0 or 1;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of

-R_4,

-X-R_4,

-X-Y-R_4,

-X-Y-X-Y-R_4, and

-X-R_5;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of

-R_4,

-X-R_4,

-X-Y-R_4, and

-X-R_5;

X is selected from the group consisting of alkylene, alkenylene, alkynylene, arylene, heteroarylene, and heterocyclylene wherein the alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene groups can be optionally interrupted or terminated with arylene, heteroarylene, or heterocyclylene, and optionally interrupted by one or more -O- groups;

Y is selected from the group consisting of

-$S(O)_{0-2}$-,

-$S(O)_2$-$N(R_8)$-,

-$C(R_6)$-,

-$C(R_6)$-O-,

-O-$C(R_6)$-,

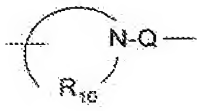
-O-C(O)-O-,

-$N(R_8)$-Q-,

-$C(R_6)$-$N(R_8)$-,

-O-$C(R_6)$-$N(R_8)$-,

-$C(R_6)$-$N(OR_9)$-,



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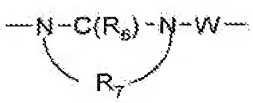

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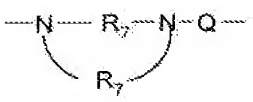

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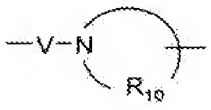
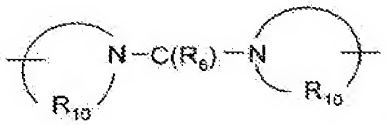


, and

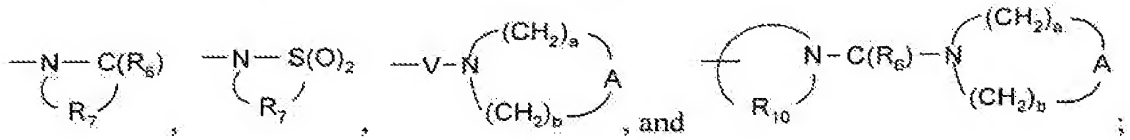


;

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, alkylarylenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkylenyl, heteroaryloxyalkylenyl, alkylheteroarylenyl, and heterocyclyl wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, alkylarylenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkylenyl, heteroaryloxyalkylenyl, alkylheteroarylenyl, and heterocyclyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxy, mercapto, cyano, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyleneoxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylalkyleneoxy, heterocyclyl,

amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, (dialkylamino)alkyleneoxy, and in the case of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, and heterocyclyl, oxo;

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of



R_6 is selected from the group consisting of =O and =S;

R_7 is C_{2-7} alkylene;

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxyalkylenyl, and arylalkylenyl;

R_9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R_{10} is C_{3-5} alkylene;

A is selected from the group consisting of -O-, -C(O)-, -$S(O)_{0-2}$-, and -$N(R_4)$-;

Het is heterocyclyl which can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, cyano, aryloxy, arylalkyleneoxy, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylalkyleneoxy, heterocyclyl, hydroxyalkyleneoxyalkylenyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, (dialkylamino)alkyleneoxy, and oxo;

Het' is heterocyclylene which can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, cyano, aryloxy, arylalkyleneoxy, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylalkyleneoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, (dialkylamino)alkyleneoxy, and oxo;

Q is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -$C(R_6)$-, -$C(R_6)$-$C(R_6)$-, -$S(O)_2$-, -$C(R_6)$-$N(R_8)$-W-, -$S(O)_2$-$N(R_8)$-, -$C(R_6)$-O-, and -$C(R_6)$-$N(OR_9)$-;

V is selected from the group consisting of -$C(R_6)$-, -O-$C(R_6)$-, -$N(R_8)$-$C(R_6)$-, and -$S(O)_2$-;

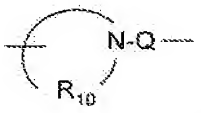
W is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -C(O)-, and –$S(O)_2$-; and

a and b are independently integers from 1 to 6 with the proviso that a + b is ≤ 7;

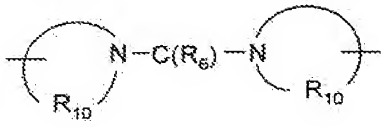
with the proviso that Z can also be a bond when:

R_3 is -Z-Het, -Z-Het'-R_4, or -Z-Het'-Y-R_4; or

R_3 is -Z-Y-R_4 or -Z-Y-X-Y-R_4, and Y is selected from -$S(O)_{0-2}$-, -$S(O)_2$-$N(R_8)$-, -$C(R_6)$-, -$C(R_6)$-O-, -$C(R_6)$-$N(R_8)$-,

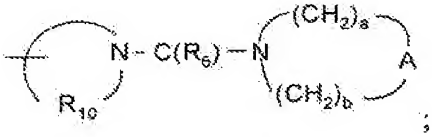


, and



; or

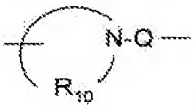
R_3 is -Z-R_5 and R_5 is



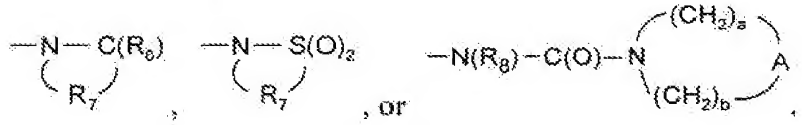
;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

92. (original) The compound or salt of claim 91 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, hydroxyalkyl, dihydroxyalkyl, alkylsulfonylalkylenyl, -X-Y-R_4, -X-R_5, and heterocyclylalkylenyl, wherein the heterocyclyl of the heterocyclylalkylenyl group is optionally substituted by one or more alkyl groups; wherein X is alkylene; Y is -$N(R_8)$-C(O)-, -$N(R_8)$-$S(O)_2$-, -$N(R_8)$-C(O)-$N(R_8)$-, or



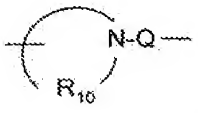
; R_4 is alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl; and R_5 is

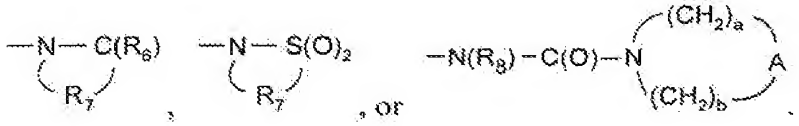


.

93. (currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 91 ~~or claim 92~~ wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxyalkylenyl, and hydroxyalkylenyl.

94. (new) The compound or salt of claim 55 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, hydroxyalkyl, dihydroxyalkyl, alkylsulfonylalkylenyl, -X-Y-R_4, -X-R_5, and heterocyclylalkylenyl, wherein the heterocyclyl of the heterocyclylalkylenyl group is optionally substituted by one or more alkyl groups; wherein X is alkylene; Y is -$N(R_8)$-C(O)-, -$N(R_8)$-$S(O)_2$-,

-N(R_8)-C(O)-N(R_8)-, or  ; R_4 is alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl; and R_5 is



95. (new) The compound or salt of claim 55 wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxyalkylenyl, and hydroxyalkylenyl.

96. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 12 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

97. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 23 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

98. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 26 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

99. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 46 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

100. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 55 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

101. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 56 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

102. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 62 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

103. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 75 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

104. (new) A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 12 to the animal.

105. (new) A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 23 to the animal.

106. (new) A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 26 to the animal.

107. (new) A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 46 to the animal.

108. (new) A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 55 to the animal.

109. (new) A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 62 to the animal.

110. (new) A method of treating a viral disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 55 to the animal.

111. (new) A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 55 to the animal.